

place of Security, when I returned to M^r Diggses, I understood April 17 Coll^l Lyles had sent some men Down the river on horse back who returned and informed him they saw the Enemie under way nearly as Low down the river as Maryland Point on which he had Discharged all the Militia below Piscatoway Creek without my orders upon which I discharged the Militia above. As I shall be under some difficulty with respect to rates of hire, of horses & carriages, I shall be mutch oblige to your Excell^y to let me know what they are otherwise I shall be mutch Pusselled about settleing & paying the Expençe Occasioned by this Alarm, Likewise what is to be allowed the men in Leiu of their rations, as many of them have drawn no provision from the commissary, Neither did he Acquaint me, who the persons were he had appointed to Issue rations. I receiv^d yours respecting the raising a body of light horse in this county, which I am now convinced will be very Esential in opposing the Enemie for their Attempts on the property of the people; I would wish to know the terms on which they are to be raised, whether to find their own horses, and how they are to be recompenced in Case of Loss, were I able to inform the people in those points, I think there will be no difficulty in raising them in a short time. I have not yet seen the Act past last Sessions relative to the Militia, I have ordered a fresh class of the Militia to be made out in such a manner that the officers & men who live most convenient to the rivers may be confined to their Touer of duty on the river they live nearest to, which will save loss of time Trouble & Expençe in marching them from one river to another on any immergency I dont know how far the Law may support me, but I think the Necessity of the times will justifie the measure, And have therefore ordered a sceizure of all the arms in the county, and such as can be made fit for Use to be put into the hands of some person to be repaired, wee have a man near this Town who has been an Armorer in the Army who they say is a good hand but rather Idle, and might require a person to overlook him, M^r John Turnbull an inhabitant here who has proved himself a Zealous & Active person in our Cause would make an Exceeding good hand for this purpose, should your Excellency or Honors approve of this Scheeme.

[P. S.] Just before closing this John Turnbull Quarter Master of the Upper Battalion who I had ordered to press men and horses to Guard the prisoners to Annapolis informs me that many persons who he pressed for that purpose absolutely refused to go themselves or let him have their horses, if some Steps are not taken with those people it will be impossible for me to forward any busness whatever

List of the Officers & men who captured the Boat Crew.

Lieu^t Osborn Williams; J. Queen, Ensign; John Oakley appointed to Act on this occasion as Brigade Major; Henry Lyles, Guide.